

LDEQ Implementation Projects Using CWA §319 Funds Request for Proposals

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is soliciting proposals for potential Clean Water Act (CWA) §319 funding for implementation projects. The objective for the use of these funds is to improve water quality and/or restore the waterbody in watersheds that are listed as impaired on the State's 303(d) list. The preference is that these funds support efforts that will take less than **2 years** to complete, and may include enforceable measures such as assistance with implementation of ordinances, or additional water quality monitoring to verify whether the management measures or best management practices (BMPs) implemented previously are addressing the loadings and reducing impacts and/or restoring the impaired waterbody. Consideration will be given to projects in urbanized areas to fund activities which **are not** a requirement of an NPDES permit. Projects should have activities that can be implemented immediately upon award of funds. Funding for any projects selected in response to this announcement will be based on availability. If funding is available for any projects received via this announcement, only the proposal(s) that has/have been chosen to be funded at that time will be contacted by LDEQ to initiate a formal project proposal submission with complete scope of work.

Review Process

The following set of review criteria was developed to assure a fair and consistent review. LDEQ's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Team will review the proposals using the criteria. Selection of proposals will be based on merit and adherence to these criteria. LDEQ will select projects based on the availability of CWA §319 funds. The selected proposals will be awarded with a project period no longer than two years.

Review Criteria

The review criteria adhere to the 2004 National Nonpoint Source Program Guidelines. These criteria presume the use of watershed based planning/implementation to address water quality impairments and the use of scientific measurement to predict and verify effectiveness of any remediation and control activities. The entity submitting the proposal must document how the proposal implements the Louisiana Nonpoint Source Management Plan.

	Criteria
1.	The proposal should document an immediate result to resolve an identified water quality impairment based on the State's most recent EPA-approved 303(d) list. Pollutant load reduction goals are identified and BMP treatment areas or other control methods have been targeted for maximum pollutant load reduction potential. Crucial landowners and/or stakeholders have been determined and have agreed to participate.
2.	The proposal should clearly demonstrate that the implementation project is connected to a Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) that has been developed or is currently being developed. Developed WIPs can be found on LDEQ's NPS website

	http://nonpoint.deq.louisiana.gov/wqa/WaterShedPlanning.htm . Lacking a developed WIP, the project should clearly demonstrate how the proposed BMPs or other control measures will improve water quality within a targeted watershed.
3.	The project will implement a mix of BMPs consisting of educational and technical assistance activities, which may not result in immediate water quality improvements.
4.	The proposal's description contains all elements necessary to immediately implement the workplan such as: the project lead, the waterbody or watershed to be restored, pollutants to be reduced, defined tasks, a realistic budget, project timeframe, assigned point of contact, etc.
5.	Project-specific in-stream monitoring is used to verify water quality improvements or better define critical areas for developing or refining watershed implementation plans.

Submission Requirements

Proposals should be no more than 5 single spaced pages using Times New Roman 12 point font with 1 inch margins. The proposals should be submitted via electronic mail to LDEQNPSReview@la.gov. The NPS team will review and make selections at any time, as funding becomes available. Point of contact for selected projects will be contacted by the NPS Section Manager and required to submit a detailed work plan with budget within 45 days of notification of project selection.

Eligibility Requirements

The following agencies and organizations are eligible to apply for and receive 319 funds:

State agencies, parishes, and local governments

Non-government organizations

Non-profit organizations

Federally recognized tribal groups within Louisiana

Match Requirements

The §319 Nonpoint Source Program may provide up to 60 % of the approved workplan cost in any fiscal year. The non-federal costs (40%) must be provided from non-federal sources.